

CHABOT COLLEGE
International Student Office
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TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S. INSTRUCTIONS FOR F-1 AND M-1 VISA HOLDERS

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT:

1. Your unexpired passport (required to be valid for at least six months). If your F-1 or M-1 visa is in an expired passport that was since renewed, be sure to travel with the old and the new passports.
2. An I-20 that is currently valid and has the properly signed travel endorsement on page 3.
3. An F-1 or M-1 visa that is valid beyond the date of the return to the U.S. (except for travel to Canada or Mexico for less than 30 days)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection also recommends students have with them:

4. Evidence of financial resources
5. Evidence of student status (recent tuition receipts/transcripts)
6. Name and contact information for the school's Designated School Official (DSO: Dolly Balangitao)

To determine the current validity of your I-20, passport and visa and to obtain the travel signature/endorsement, contact Ms. Dolly Balangitao in the International Student Office at least two to three weeks before you plan to travel.

TO LEAVE THE UNITED STATES :

You will be asked to submit your I-94 form (the small white card in your passport also known as your Departure Record) to an airline's representative at departure. If you do not possess the I-94 form because it has been sent to Immigration, for example, you will still be allowed to board the airplane without it. You will receive a new I-94 form at re-entry. If you are a student who had to go through special fingerprinting upon arrival and have a special FIN# (Fingerprint Identification Number) on the back of your I-94, be sure to follow any special departure instructions immigration may have given you at that time.

TO ENTER FOREIGN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN YOUR OWN (Canada and Mexico-see back):

It is possible that you may be required to obtain a visa and immunizations. For full details, contact the nearest consulate or embassy of each country you plan to visit before your departure. Most countries have consulates in San Francisco. If there is no local consular office, you will need to contact the embassy in Washington, D.C. for the consul location responsible for issuing visas to persons residing in the Bay Area.

RENEWING YOUR F-1 VISA IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY

Once you've entered the U.S. your F-1 visa is allowed to expire. Your I-20 and passport must always be valid. The F-1 visa is an entry document. The only need to renew is if you plan to depart the U.S. and reenter. Otherwise you can legally continue to remain in the U.S. and attend classes as long as you have a valid I-20 and unexpired passport. If you planned to go home for a visit and need to renew your visa to reenter, please be sure to have the International Student Office prepare you for this renewal process. Be sure to contact the U.S. Embassy in your home country to make sure there will be enough time for you to obtain your F-1 visa before returning. In some countries it could take many weeks. Embassies often close during the short winter recess due to the holidays so we recommend renewals be done during the summer break.

ENTERING CANADA FROM THE U.S.

It is very common for students traveling into Canada, especially those driving, to simply "cross the border" without giving thought to what might be required by the Canadian government for entering as a visitor. Citizens from certain countries who wish to visit Canada are required to obtain a visitor's visa (tourist visa) from the Canadian Consulate General in Los Angeles: Immigration Section, Canadian Consulate General, 300 S. Grand Ave., 10th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071, telephone (213) 346-2700. Citizens of certain countries are likely to be exempt from the visa requirement, but to be certain, contact the Canadian Consulate in Los Angeles. (see additional information on the other side)

RE-ENTERING THE U.S FROM CANADA

F-1 nonimmigrant students who visit Canada for less than 30 days, who have maintained a lawful non-immigrant status in the U.S. and intend to resume that status upon their return must have the following: (1) a valid passport, (2) a new or properly endorsed valid I-20 ID, and (3) a valid Form I-94 (white card stapled to the passport). NOTE: a valid unexpired F-1 visa stamp in the passport is not required if you are traveling solely to Canada and the travel period does not exceed 30 days. **DO NOT surrender your I-94 Departure Record** since you would be expected to have a valid visa stamp in your passport. This "automatic visa revalidation" is not applicable to nationals of Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

ENTRY INTO MEXICO

Mexican tourist cards or visas are required of all persons wishing to visit Mexico. Tourist cards/visas are obtained at the Mexican Consulate. Tourist cards are normally processed within one hour; visas may take a little longer. Some visas are free; for others, there is a charge. Some visas require three photos. For information on tourist cards/visas and the documents required to obtain them, contact the Mexican Consulate at 870 Market Street, #528, San Francisco, CA 94102, telephone (415) 392-5554 or visit the Mexican Embassy home page @ <http://portal.sre.gob.mx/usa/index.php?option=displaypage&Itemid=111&op=page&SubMenu=>

F-1 nonimmigrant students who visit Mexico for less than 30 days, who have maintained a lawful non-immigrant status in the U.S. and intend to resume that status upon their return must keep the Form I-94 (white card stapled in the passport) when crossing the border **DO NOT surrender your I-94 Departure Record** and present it as one of the documents required for re-entry to the U.S. As of May 23, 2006, this "automatic visa revalidation" is not applicable to nationals of Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

RE-ENTERING THE U.S. FROM MEXICO

Upon return to the U.S., you must show the U.S. Immigration Inspector: 1) a valid passport, (2) a new or properly endorsed valid I-20 ID, and (3) a valid Form I-94.

APPLYING FOR A NEW OR RENEWAL F-1 VISA IN CANADA OR MEXICO TCN (Third Country National)

We do not recommend students apply for a new visa through Canada or Mexico. If you apply and **if it is denied, you will not be allowed back into the United States** but will be required to return to your home country to obtain the F-1 visa renewal prior to reentering the U.S. Students who originally entered with a B visa that was changed in the U.S. to F status are not eligible to apply for the F-1 visa in Canada or Mexico.

If you choose this risky procedure, the contact information for Canada is:

<http://www.usembassycanada.gov/consular.htm#visa>

To access the Self Service Website to schedule an appointment go to <http://www.nvars.com>

1(888) 840-0032 Calls charged to a credit card

1(900) 433-3131 from within the U.S. You will be charged a per minute fee to your telephone bill.

For Mexico: <http://www.visa-usa.com.mx/DetermineTCN.aspx>

To access the Online self-service for appointments in Mexico go to: <http://www.visa-usa.com/mx/>

1-900-476-1212 from within the U.S. You will be charged a per minute fee to your telephone bill.

1-800-919-1754 from within the U.S. Flat transaction fee billed to your Visa or MasterCard.